

Health department lifts open water swimming warning; still urges caution

1:27 PM, Jul. 26, 2011

The Lee County Health Department's warning not to swim, fish or allow pets and livestock to use fresh untreated open waters in Lee County has been replaced by an advisory to use caution before using these water bodies.

Results of Caloosahatchee River water samples received Monday by the health department show a significant drop in algal toxin levels.

Signs posted east of the Franklin Locks will be removed.

Conditions are still favorable for algal growth in all fresh untreated open water, said Charles Walther, Environmental Engineering director.

If water appears unusually bright green, or distressed or dead animal and marine life are near, it is recommended that neither humans nor animals drink the water or swim, boat or fish there.

Anyone who experiences breathing difficulties near these water bodies, should leaving the area immediately.

Please contact the health department to report breathing difficulties near water bodies by calling (239) 274-2200. To report dead or distressed marine and wildlife call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (863) 648-3200.